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## MAKE YOUR RUBBER GOODS LAST

Ruth Van Deman, Bureau of Home Economics, and Wallace Kadderly, Radio Service, U. S. D. A. Broadcast in the Department portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, December 8, 1942, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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WALLACE KADDERLY: And now Ruth Van Deman, bringing us information on how to keep our rubber boots, galoshes, other household rubber goods, lasting longer. As we all know, rubber is a material of great strategic value in winning the war. In fact, Ruth, I'd say "rubber" right now is a word to conjure with.

RUTH VAN DEMAN: You're right it is, Wallace. But no mere conjurer's tricks will keep what rubber we have wearing---giving service for the duration. We've got to face the enemies of rubber, and map a campaign to keep them under control. Can you name the enemies?

KADDERLY: Some at least. Oil---grease of any kind--tar. They're what I'd call sneaky enemies of rubber. They soften it up--weaken it so it wears out more quickly.

VAN DEMAN: And heat and sunlight are if anything worse. They dry out rubber---crack it---make it lose its "rubbery" quality.

KADDERLY: And copper's hard on rubber, if it comes in direct contact.

VAN DEMAN: And dry cleaning fluid also, if it stays on the rubber more than a few minutes. You can sponge off a grease spot with dry cleaning fluid if you work fast---Of course keeping rubber clean is one of the ways to lengthen its life. Keep it clean. Keep it cool. And store it in a dark place when not in use. These are the main rules of rubber care.

KADDERLY: Ruth, let's carry over those rules to rubber boots. I mention rubber boots particularly because the heavy duty kind are already rationed--and they're very much needed by men in important production jobs.

VAN DEMAN: All right. But let's throw the rules in reverse---make them the don't dos. You go first, Wallace.

KADDERLY: Very well. Don't leave rubber boots standing around dirty, especially if they've been worn where there's grease and oil. Wash them off clean, with soap and water.

VAN DEMAN: And don't park them near the stove to dry.

KADDERLY: And don't leave them kicking around on the back porch either, in all kinds of wind and weather.

VAN DEMAN: In short, do put them away clean in a cool airy place. And when a break comes in the sole, perhaps it can be patched with a cold patch or a hot patch. Here's the how-to-do-it on that, Wallace, in pictures and in words.

KADDERLY: Another new folder in the make - 'em - last series, eh?

VAN DEMAN: Yes...this is the third and there are still more to come. As soon as we realized rubber was a critical material, the Bureau of Home Economics set about finding out what we could do on better care and home repair.

KADDERLY: And so we have this folder "Take Care of Household Rubber."

VAN DEMAN: That's the story. You see it covers more than footwear from rubber boots to toe sandals.

KADDERLY: I do see. It covers all sorts of things made with rubber---garments made with rubber thread--electric cords---garden hose---

VAN DEMAN: Hot water bottles---rubber raincoats---rubber sheets---rubber wringer rolls---and so on. And ends with directions for mending and patching.

KADDERLY: But can you get the patches?

VAN DEMAN: I understand so, in some stores. It's well to try the drug store. The hardware store, or the five-and-ten.

KADDERLY: And the gas service station, I should think.

VAN DEMAN: By all means.

KADDERLY: In other words, it's up to us to make what rubber articles we have left, or else. As the Baruch report on rubber said: We are a have-not nation when it comes to new rubber. We have an acute rubber shortage now. We must conserve every pound of rubber for war use.

VAN DEMAN: And guard our health in the bargain. Rubber overshoes are pretty important, what with rain, and snow, and tough winter weather ahead.

And speaking of keeping off the wet, I have something to help on the umbrella situation.

KADDERLY: Something to keep a fellow from losing his umbrella?

VAN DEMAN: No, I'm afraid there's no sure cure for that.... But as you know, the War Production Board has cut the number of new umbrellas that can be manufactured.

KADDERLY: In order to save steel. Yes, I saw that order.

VAN DEMAN: But there are lots of old umbrellas with good metal frames knocking about...Their tops are torn and leaky, so they've been pushed aside.

KADDERLY: Can't they have new tops...new covers put on?

VAN DEMAN: Certainly they can...either by an umbrella repair man, or a woman who's smart at sewing can do it at home. Here are directions, complete directions with pictures - worked out by our clothing specialists.

KADDERLY: Well, that is something new under the sun....how to re-cover your own umbrella. But it must take some mighty straight cutting and neat stitching.

VAN DEMAN: It does. But it can be done. You use the old umbrella cover as a pattern.

KADDERLY: And you'll send the full directions on how to Re-Cover Your Old Umbrella ....to anyone who wants them?

VAN DEMAN: That's right.

KADDERLY: As well as the folder on "Take Care of Household Rubber."

VAN DEMAN: That's right. Rubbers and umbrellas have a way of going together.

KADDERLY: Keeping together, shall we say, for good luck..... Well, Farm and Home friends, just to repeat the offer of these two very timely, useful publications, available from the Bureau of Home Economics. The titles are: "Take Care of Household Rubber"...."Re-Cover Your Old Umbrella." You can have either or both by writing to the Bureau of Home Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. If you forget the full titles just ask for rubber and umbrella material on a post card.

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